

名 賢 集

MING HSIEN CHI
BEING A COLLECTION OF
PROVERBS & MAXIMS

IN THE
CHINESE LANGUAGE

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
WITH A FEW EXPLANATORY NOTES
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PREFACE.

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A question was once put to an eminent professor "How long will it take me to acquire a knowledge of Arahic?" and the answer was that to make a really proficient scholar it would take at least five hundred years. The same remark applies equally well to the study of Chinese. Much, however, can be accomplished in a considerably shorter space of time. The ordinary student is able with the assistance of text-books and teacher to obtain a fair working knowledge of either language in five or six years. It has been my experience in language study that much depends on the method of instruction. The main object of every teacher should be to interest the student by introducing what is palatable in the beginning, preparing him step by step for more advanced work. With this end in view great attention should be paid to conversation, through which medium the interest of even the most backward is often awakened. Unfortunately, to attain a thorough knowledge of colloquial Chinese a tremendous tax on the memory is necessary. In the absence of grammar in the proper sense of the word, the student is forced to memorise to a greater extent than in most other languages. From the very beginning an attempt should be made to form sentences with the aid of the teacher on every day topics which can be expanded in proportion as knowledge of the language increases. I have thought it well in the above lines to indicate in general terms the importance of a study of the colloquial aspect of the Chinese Language. To help on this work a translation of 170 common proverbs and maxims collated in book form under the name of Ming Hsien Chi (名賢集) has been made with transliteration of each character together with its proper tone according to Peking usage, as well as an explanation of some of the more obscure sayings. This small book was originally used as a text-book by Chinese school boys. It is written in antithetical couplets of four, five, six and seven characters to one line, about 600 different characters being employed. According to Professor Giles, "children are made to learn these by heart, and ordinary grown-up Chinamen may be almost said to think in proverbs." He adds, "there can be no doubt that to the foreigner a large store of proverbs, committed to memory and judiciously introduced, are a great aid to successful conversation." In support of this last statement I may say that I have often seen a Chinese official's face light up at the timely utterance of a well-known proverb. For those who would dip deeper into the treasures of the Chinese language a study of the scholarly work "Proverbs and Common Sayings from the Chinese" by Mr. Arthur H. Smith is recommended.

For the revision of the manuscript, as well as for the work of seeing it through the Press, I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. Karl Tochtermann of the Statistical Department, Inspectorate General of Customs, Shanghai.

H. DAWSON-GRÖNLUND.

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名 賢 集
MING² HSIEN² CHI.²

COLLECTION OF THE SAYINGS OF WORTHY MEN.

1. — 但 行 好 事

tan⁴ hsing² hao³ shih⁴

莫 問 前 程

mo⁴ wên⁴ ch'ien² ch'êng²

Merely do good, don't expect a reward.

前程 advancement; a career.

2. — 與 人 方 便

yü³ jên² fang¹ pien⁴

自 己 方 便

tzü⁴ chi³ fang¹ pien⁴

If you do good to anybody, you yourself will benefit by it.

與 has the meaning of 'give'; here almost akin to a dative case.

3. — 善 與 人 交

shan⁴ yü³ jên² chiao¹

久 而 敬 之

chiu³ erh² ching⁴ chih¹

He who excels in making friends will be consistent in his respect for them.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語), said of Yen P'ing-chung (晏平仲), a Prime Minister of the Ch'i State, which flourished during the years B. C. 1122—B. C. 412.

4. 一人貧智短

jén² p'in² chih⁴ tuan³

馬瘦毛長

má³ shou⁴ mau² ch'ang²

When a man is poor, his intelligence is limited; when a horse is lean, his hair is long;

i.e.—A poor man makes a poor show, in the same way a horse which is ill fed has a disreputable appearance.

5. 人心似鐵

jén² hsin¹ ssü⁴ t'ieh³

官法如爐

kuan¹ fa³ ju² lu²

Man's heart is like iron, the laws of the Government are like an assayer's furnace;

i.e.—A man can be governed by his country's laws, although his heart may be stubborn.

6. 諫之雙美

chien⁴ chih¹ shuang¹ mei³

毀之兩傷

hui³ chih¹ liang³ shang¹

Reproof is good for both parties, slander injures both.

7. 積善之家

chi¹ shan⁴ chih¹ chia¹

必有餘慶

pi⁴ yu³ yü² ch'ing⁴

The family that stores up virtue will surely have an abundance of blessings.

This and the next are quotations from the Book of Changes (易經).

8. 積惡之家

chi¹ è⁴ chih¹ chia¹

必有餘殃

pi⁴ yu³ yü² yang¹

The family that persists in wrong-doing will surely hand down a store of calamities (to future generations).

9. 休爭閒氣

hsiu¹ chêng¹ hsien² ch'ü⁴

日有平西

jih⁴ yu³ p'ing² hsi¹

Don't meddle in matters that are of no account, the sun is not always in the zenith.

平西 3 or 4 p.m. in Peking colloquial.

10. 來之不善

lai² chih¹ pu⁴ shan⁴

去之亦易

ch'ü⁴ chih¹ i⁴ i⁴

Ill gotten gains do not long prosper.

11. 人平不語

jén² p'ing² pu⁴ yü³

水平不流

shui³ p'ing² pu⁴ liu²

The peaceful man preserves silence, in smooth water there is no current.

12.—得 榮 思 辱

té⁴ jung² ssü¹ ju⁴

處 安 思 危

ch'u⁴ an¹ ssü¹ wei²

When you are honoured think of dishonour, when you live in peace think of trouble.

13.—羊 羔 雖 美

yang² kao¹ sui¹ mei³

衆 口 難 調

chung⁴ k'ou³ nan² t'iao²

Although lamb is good, you cannot cook it to suit everybody's taste.

14.—事 要 三 思

shih⁴ yao⁴ san¹ ssü¹

免 勞 後 悔

mien³ lao² hou⁴ hui³

In matters of importance think thrice, you will thereby avoid trouble and regret.

後悔 repentance.

15.—太 子 入 學

t'ai⁴ tzu³ ju⁴ hsüeh²

庶 民 同 例

shu⁴ min² t'ung² li⁴

If the heir apparent goes to school, he must submit to the same rules as the common people.

庶民 the masses.

16.—官 至 一 品

kuan¹ chih⁴ i¹ p'in³

萬 法 依 條

wan⁴ fa³ i¹ t'iao²

An official who has reached the highest rank must conform to the law in all things.

17.—凡 事 從 實

fan² shih⁴ ts'ung² shih²

積 福 自 厚

chi¹ fu² tzu⁴ hou⁴

In everything practise honesty, by so doing you will assuredly store up much happiness.

自 is here used in the sense of 自然 naturally.

18.—無 功 受 祿

wu² kung¹ shou⁴ lu⁴

寢 食 不 安

ch'in³ shih² pu⁴ an¹

He who receives rewards that are undeserved will not feel easy when sleeping or eating.

19.—財 高 語 壯

ts'ai² kao¹ yü³ chuang⁴

力 大 欺 人

li⁴ ta⁴ ch'i¹ jén²

The rich man is proud of speech, the strong man oppresses the people.

20.一言多語失

yen² to¹ yü³ shih¹

食多傷心

shih² to¹ shang¹ hsin¹

If you talk too much, you will make mistakes; if you eat too much, you will injure your digestion.

21.一酒要少喫

chin³ yao⁴ shao³ ch'ih¹

事要多知

shih⁴ yao⁴ to¹ chih¹

Wine must be taken in small quantities, knowledge in large doses.

22.一相爭告人

hsiang¹ chêng¹ kao⁴ jên²

萬種無益

wan⁴ chung³ wu² i²

There is no advantage to be gained by bringing in lawsuits against one another.

23.一禮下於人

li³ hsiá⁴ yü² jên²

必有所求

pi⁴ yü³ so³ ch'iu²

He who flatters you must have something he wishes to obtain from you;

i.e.—Nobody does anything for nothing in this world.

24.一敏而好學

min³ erh² hao⁴ hsüeh⁴

不恥下問

pu⁴ ch'ih³ hsiá⁴ wên⁴

Clever and fond of learning not ashamed to ask questions of one's inferiors.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

25.一居必擇鄰

chü¹ pi⁴ tsé² lin²

交必良友

chiao¹ pi⁴ liang² yü³

If you wish to settle down you must select your neighbours, if you make friends they must be good ones.

26.一順天者存

shun⁴ t'ien¹ ché³ ts'un²

逆天者亡

ni⁴ t'ien¹ ché³ wang²

Those who obey Heaven will live, those who disobey will perish.

27.一人爲財死

jên² wei⁴ ts'ai² ssü³

鳥爲食亡

niao³ wei⁴ shih² wang²

Man will die for money, birds for food.

28.—得人一牛

tê² jén² i¹ niu²

還人一馬

huan² jén² i¹ ma³

If you obtain an ox from a man, you will have to give him back a horse.

29.—老實常在

lao³ shih² ch'ang² tsai⁴

脫空常敗

t'o¹ k'ung¹ ch'ang² pai⁴

Honesty always brings success, dishonesty ever defeats itself;

cf.—'Honesty is the best policy.'

30.—三人同行

san¹ jén² t'ung² hsing²

必有我師

pi⁴ yu³ wo³ shih¹

If three men are walking together, there must be one of them who can teach me something.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

31.—人無遠慮

jén² wu² yüan³ lü⁴

必有近憂

pi⁴ yu³ chin⁴ yu¹

If a man has no forethought, sorrow is close at hand.

32.—寸心不昧

ts'un⁴ hsün¹ pu⁴ mei⁴

萬法皆明

wan⁴ fa³ chieh¹ ming²

If the heart is not wicked, all things will prosper.

33.—明中施捨

ming¹ chung¹ shih¹ shé³

暗裏填還

an⁴ li³ t'ien² huan²

Give alms openly, you will be rewarded in secret.
(Diametrically opposed to the biblical dictum).

34.—人間私語

jén² chien¹ ssü¹ yü³

天聞若雷

t'ien¹ wén² jo⁴ lei²

The very whispers you utter are heard in heaven like a voice of thunder.

35.—暗室虧心

an⁴ shih⁴ k'uei¹ hsün¹

神目如電

shén² mu⁴ ju² tien⁴

Evil things done in secret are seen in heaven like a flash of lightning.

36.—肚裏踴躍

tu⁴ li³ ch'iao¹ ch'i¹

神道先知

shén² tao⁴ hsien¹ chih¹

Heaven knows beforehand the crooked ways of the human heart.

37.—人 離 鄉 賤

jén² lí² hsiang¹ chien⁴

物 離 鄉 貴

wu⁴ lí² hsiang¹ kuei⁴

If a man leaves his village, he makes himself cheap (*i.e.* of no account); goods leaving the village become more valuable.

38.—殺 人 可 恕

sha¹ jén² k'o³ shu⁴

情 理 難 容

ch'ing² lí³ nan² jung²

To kill a man is pardonable, but it cannot be excused if done contrary to the law;

i.e.—Anything is permissible under the law.

39.—人 欲 可 斷

jén² yü⁴ k'o³ tuan⁴

天 理 可 循

t'ien¹ lí³ k'o³ hsün²

Men's desires can be curbed, the decrees of heaven must be followed.

40.—心 要 忠 恕

hsin¹ yao⁴ chung¹ shu⁴

意 要 誠 實

i⁴ yao⁴ ch'êng² shih²

Your disposition must be loyal and forgiving, your intentions fervent and sincere.

41.—狎 暱 惡 少

hsia² ni⁴ ê⁴ shao⁴

久 必 受 累

chiu³ pi⁴ shou⁴ lei⁴

If you keep company with the wicked, you are bound to suffer in the long run.

狎暱 to be intimate with (generally in a bad sense).

42.—屈 志 老 成

ch'ü¹ chih⁴ lao³ ch'êng²

急 可 相 依

chi² k'o³ hsiang¹ i¹

Submit your will to the experienced, you can rely upon them in time of trouble.

43.—施 惠 無 念

shih¹ kui⁴ wu² nien⁴

受 恩 莫 忘

shou⁴ ên¹ mo⁴ wang⁴

Have no recollection of favours given, do not forget benefits conferred.

44.—勿 營 華 屋

wu⁴ ying² hua² wu¹

勿 謀 良 田

wu⁴ mou² liang² t'ien²

Do not build fine houses, nor covet fertile fields.

45.—祖宗雖遠

tsu³ tsung¹ sui¹ yüan³

祭祀宜誠

chi⁴ ssü⁴ i² ch'êng²

Although our ancestors are far away, we must none the less be sincere in offering sacrifices to them.

The worship of ancestors is the foundation stone of Chinese ethics.

46.—子孫雖愚

tzü³ sun¹ sui¹ yü²

詩書宜讀

shih¹ shu¹ i² tu²

Though your children and grandchildren are dull, nevertheless they must apply themselves to study.

詩書 poetry and history—a compendium of Chinese learning.

47.—刻薄成家

k'o⁴ po² ch'êng² chia¹

理無久享

li³ wu² chiu³ hsiang³

Money dishonourably made is not long enjoyed.

48.—黃金浮在世

huang² chin¹ fou² tsai⁴ shih⁴

白髮故人稀

po² fa³ ku⁴ jên² hsi¹

Gold in the world is plentiful, but hoary headed old friends are scarce.

49.—多金非爲貴

to¹ chin¹ fei¹ wei² kuei⁴

安樂值錢多

an¹ lé⁴ chih² ch'ien² to¹

Much money has little real value, peace and contentment are worth great wealth.

50.—休爭三寸氣

hsiu¹ chêng¹ san¹ ts'un⁴ ch'i⁴

白了少年頭

pai² liao³ shao⁴ nien² t'ou²

Do not give way to any temper, in a few years your hair will be grey.

51.—百年隨時過

po² nien² sui² shih² kuo⁴

萬事轉頭空

wan⁴ shih⁴ chuan³ t'ou² k'ung¹

A hundred years elapse quickly, ten thousand things come and go in a moment.

轉頭 lit. a turn of the head.

52.—耕牛無宿草

kêng¹ niu² wu² su⁴ ts'ao³

倉鼠有餘糧

ts'ang¹ shu³ yu³ yü² liang²

The plough-ox has no grass for its evening feed, while the barn-rat has enough grain and to spare.

53. 萬事分已定

wan⁴ shih⁴ fên⁴ i³ ting⁴

浮生空自忙

fou² shêng¹ k'ung¹ tzu⁴ mang²

All things are determined by fate, your striving in life is quite in vain.

54. 結有德之朋

chieh² yu³ té² chih¹ p'êng²

絕無義之友

chüeh² wu² i⁴ chih¹ yu³

Make virtuous friends, spurn wicked acquaintances.

55. 常懷克己心

ch'ang² huai² k'o⁴ chi³ hsin¹

法度要謹守

fa³ tu⁴ yao⁴ chin³ shou³

Always cherish self-control, hold fast to the law.

56. 君子坦蕩蕩

chün¹ tzu³ t'an³ tang⁴ tang⁴

小人長戚戚

hsiao³ jên² ch'ang² ch'i⁴ ch'i⁴

The superior man is satisfied and composed, the mean man is always dissatisfied.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

57. 見事知長短

chien⁴ shih⁴ chih¹ ch'ang² tuan³

人面識高低

jên² mien⁴ shih⁴ kao¹ ti¹

In judging things it is necessary to know the merits and defects, in judging man the face will tell you whether he is good or bad.

長短 the right and wrong (lit. the long and short).

58. 心高遮甚事

hsin¹ kao¹ ché¹ shén⁴ shih⁴

地高逐水流

ti⁴ kao¹ chu² shui³ liu²

What is the use of directing your thoughts too high, where the land is high the water flows off?

i.e.—Do not aspire too high or else you may be left high and dry.

59. 水深流去慢

shui³ shén¹ lín² ch'ü⁴ man⁴

貴人語話遲

kuei⁴ jên² yü³ hua⁴ ch'ih²

When the water is deep the current is sluggish, the superior man is slow of speech.

60. 道高龍虎伏

tao⁴ kao¹ lung² hu³ fu²

德重鬼神欽

té² chung⁴ kuei³ shén² ch'in¹

The dragon and tiger worship the divine principle, devils and spirits venerate glorious virtue.

德 is the exemplification of 道.

61. 一人高談今古

jén² kao¹ t'an² chin¹ ku³

物高價出頭

wu⁴ kao¹ chia⁴ ch'u¹ t'ou²

Men of ability can talk of the present and past, when the goods are superior the price is high.

62. 一休倚時來勢

hsiū¹ i³ shih² lai² shih⁴

隄防時去年

ti¹ fang² shih² ch'ü⁴ nien²

Do not depend upon your present good fortune, you must anticipate the time when it will leave you.

63. 一藤蘿繞樹生

t'êng² lo² jao³ shu⁴ shêng¹

樹倒藤蘿死

shu⁴ tao³ t'êng² lo² ssü³

The creeper lives by twining itself round the tree, when the tree falls the creeper dies.

藤蘿 *Wistaria chinensis*.

64. 一官滿如花謝

kuan¹ man³ ju² hua¹ hsieh⁴

勢敗奴欺主

shih⁴ pai⁴ nu² ch'i¹ chu³

When the time of holding office is over, you are like the flower which is withered ; when you have no power your servants will insult you.

65. 一命強人欺鬼

ming⁴ ch'iang² jén² ch'i¹ kuei³

時衰鬼欺人

shih² shuai¹ kuei³ ch'i¹ jén²

When fortune is good, you can triumph over evil spirits ; when times are bad, the devils will lord it over you.

66. 一但得一步地

tan⁴ té² i¹ pu⁴ ti⁴

何須不爲人

ho² hsi¹ pu⁴ wei² jén²

Even if it is in a trifling matter, why be wicked?

67. 一人無千日好

jén² wu² ch'ien¹ jih⁴ hao³

花無百日紅

hua¹ wu² po² jih⁴ hung²

Man's happiness is not everlasting, the flower cannot bloom for long.

Lit.—Man is not happy for 1,000 days, a flower does not bloom 100 days.

68. 一人有十年壯

jén² yu³ shih² nien² chuang⁴

神鬼不敢傍

shén² kuei³ pu⁴ kan³ pang⁴

If a man is fortunate for ten years, the devils and spirits dare not touch him.

69. 一厨中有剩飯

ch'u² chung¹ yu³ shéng⁴ fan⁴

路上有饑人

lu⁴ shang⁴ yu³ chi¹ jén²

If there is a surplus of food in the kitchen, there are poor people in the street.

70. 饒人不是癡

jao² jén² pu⁴ shih⁴ ch'ih²

過後得便宜

kuo⁴ hou⁴ té² p'ien² i²

It is not foolish to pardon men, you will derive benefit from so doing at a future date.

71. 量小非君子

liang² hsiao³ jei¹ chün¹ tzu³

品高是丈夫

p'in³ kao¹ shih⁴ chang⁴ fu¹

A narrow-minded man is not a superior individual, noble conduct is sublime.

72. 路遙知馬力

lu⁴ yao² chih¹ ma³ li⁴

日久見人心

jih⁴ chiu³ chien⁴ jén² hsin¹

A day's journey will test the strength of a horse, it takes a long time to understand a man's character.

73. 長存君子道

ch'ang² ts'un² chün¹ tzu³ tao⁴

須有稱心時

hsü¹ yu³ ch'ên⁴ hsin¹ shih²

Always bear in mind the words of the superior man, there must be a brighter day at hand ;

i.e.—Always do what is right even in misfortune, brighter days are in store.

74. 雁飛不到處

yen⁴ fei¹ pu⁴ tao⁴ ch'u⁴

人被利名牽

jén² pei⁴ li⁴ ming² ch'ien¹

There are places to which a wild goose cannot fly, man is attracted by name and fame.

75. 有錢便使用

yu³ ch'ien² pien⁴ shih³ yung⁴

死後一場空

ssü⁴ hou⁴ i¹ ch'ang² k'ung¹

If you have money, spend it ; when you are dead, it will be of no use to you.

76. 爲仁不富矣

wei² jén² pu⁴ fu⁴ i³

爲富不仁矣

wei² fu⁴ pu⁴ jén² i³

If you are charitable, you cannot become rich ; if you are rich, you cannot be charitable.

77.—君子喻於義

chün¹ tzu³ yü⁴ yü² i⁴

小人喻於利

hsiao³ jén² yü⁴ yü² li⁴

The superior man devotes himself to justice, the mean man to gain.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

78.—貧而無怨難

p'in² erh² wu² yüan⁴ nan²

富而無驕易

fu⁴ erh² wu² chiao¹ i⁴

It is difficult to be poor and not complain, it is easy to be rich and not be proud.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

79.—萬般全在命

wan⁴ pan¹ ch'üan² tsai⁴ ming⁴

半點不由人

pan⁴ tien³ pu⁴ yü² jén²

Everything depends on fate, the will of man availeth nothing.

80.—在家敬父母

tsai⁴ chia¹ ching⁴ fu⁴ mu³

何須遠燒香

ho² hsü¹ yüan³ shao¹ hsiang¹

When at home be dutiful to your parents, what use is there in burning incense when far away?

81.—家和貧也好

chia¹ ho² p'in² yeh³ hao³

不義富如何

pu⁴ i⁴ fu⁴ ju² ho²

Poverty is no disgrace to a family living in harmony, why become rich by unrighteous means?

82.—晴乾開水道

ch'ing² kan¹ k'ai¹ shui³ tao⁴

須防暴雨時

hsü¹ fang² pao⁴ yü³ shih²

Open your gutters while it is fine, you will thus anticipate a heavy shower;

i.e.—Prepare for a rainy day,

cf.—'Make hay while the sun shines.'

83.—寒門生貴子

han² mén² shêng¹ kuei⁴ tzü³

白屋出公卿

po² wu¹ ch'u¹ kung¹ ch'ing¹

A poor family may rear noble children, out of a humble dwelling high ministers may come forth.

84.—將相本無種

chiang⁴ hsiang⁴ pên³ wu² chung³

男兒當自強

nan² êrh² tang¹ tzü⁴ ch'iang²

Ministers and generals are not born so, you must exert yourself if you want to succeed.

85.—成 人 不 自 在

ch'êng² jén² pu⁴ tzü⁴ tsai⁴

自 在 不 成 人

tzü⁴ tsai⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng² jén²

If you want to be a man you cannot take it easy, take it easy and you will not succeed.

86.—國 正 天 心 順

kuo² chêng⁴ t'ien¹ hsin¹ shun⁴

官 清 民 自 安

kuan¹ ch'ing¹ min² tzü⁴ an¹

If the Government is good, heaven will bless it; if the official is upright, the people will live in peace.

87.—妻 賢 夫 禍 少

ch'ü¹ hsien² fu¹ huo⁴ shao³

子 孝 父 心 寬

tzü³ hsiao⁴ fu⁴ hsin¹ k'uan¹

A virtuous wife will lessen the misfortunes of her husband, a filial son will put his father's mind at ease.

88.—自 家 無 運 至

tzü⁴ chia¹ wu² yün⁴ chih⁴

却 怨 世 界 難

ch'üeh⁴ yüan⁴ shih⁴ chieh⁴ nan²

The man to whose lot no good fortune falls, complains that it is difficult to succeed in the world.

89.—有 錢 能 解 語

yu³ ch'ien² niêng² chieh³ yü³

無 錢 語 不 聽

wu² ch'ien² yü³ pu⁴ t'ing¹

If you have money, people will understand you; if you have no money, no one will trouble listening to your words.

90.—人 生 不 滿 百

jén² shêng¹ pu⁴ man³ pai³

常 懷 千 歲 憂

ch'ang² huai² ch'ien¹ sui⁴ yu¹

A man may never live a hundred years, though he may endure trouble of a thousand.

91.—來 說 是 非 者

lai² shuo¹ shih⁴ fei¹ ché³

便 是 是 非 人

pien⁴ shih⁴ shih⁴ fei¹ jén²

He who comes forward and asserts that this is the right and the wrong doer, is himself the wrong doer.

92.—積 善 有 善 報

chi¹ shan⁴ yu³ shan⁴ pao⁴

積 惡 有 惡 報

chi¹ é⁴ yu³ é⁴ pao⁴

Do good you will be rewarded with good, do evil and you will be rewarded with evil.

93.—報 應 有 早 晚

pao⁴ ying⁴ yu³ tsao³ wan³

禍 福 自 不 錯

huo⁴ fu² tzū⁴ pu⁴ ts'o⁴

Retribution must come early or late, calamity or good fortune will follow as a matter of course.

94.—花 有 重 開 日

hua¹ yu³ ch'ung² k'ai¹ jih⁴

人 無 長 少 年

jén² wu² ch'ang² shao⁴ nien²

The flower blooms again, man, however, has no perpetual youth.

95.—人 無 害 虎 心

jén² wu² hai⁴ hu³ hsin¹

虎 有 傷 人 意

hu³ yu³ shang¹ jén² i⁴

Man has no spite against the tiger, the tiger meditates the destruction of man.

96.—上 山 擒 虎 易

shang⁴ shan¹ ch'in² hu³ i⁴

開 口 告 人 難

k'ai¹ k'ou³ kao⁴ jén² nan²

Climbing a mountain to capture a tiger is easy, to beg alms is difficult;

i.e.—There is nothing more difficult than begging.

97.—忠 臣 不 怕 死

chung¹ ch'én² pu⁴ p'a⁴ ssü³

怕 死 不 忠 臣

p'a⁴ ssü³ pu⁴ chung¹ ch'én²

A loyal minister does not dread death, he who dreads death is not a loyal minister.

98.—從 前 多 少 事

ts'ung² ch'ien² to¹ shao³ shih⁴

過 去 一 場 空

kuo⁴ ch'ü⁴ i¹ ch'ang² k'ung¹

From olden times to the present no matter how great the affair when it has passed, it is a mere trifle.

99.—既 在 矮 簷 下

chi⁴ tsai⁴ ai³ yen² hsia⁴

怎 敢 不 低 頭

tsén³ kan³ pu⁴ ti¹ t'ou²

Standing under low-pitched eaves, how should one venture not to bend one's head?

i.e.—No matter how disagreeable it is, you must obey those who are placed over you.

100.—家 貧 知 孝 子

chia¹ p'in² ch'ih¹ hsiao⁴ tzü³

國 亂 顯 忠 臣

kuo² luan⁴ hsien³ chung¹ ch'én²

The dutifulness of a son is tried, when his family is poor; the loyalty of a minister is tested, when a nation is in trouble.

101.—命 貧 君 子 拙

míng⁴ p'ín² chün¹ tzu³ cho¹

時 來 小 人 強

shih² lai² hsiao³ jén² ch'iang²

Bad fortune may have an adverse effect upon the superior man, good fortune may prove the salvation of the mean man.

102.—命 好 心 也 好

míng⁴ hao³ hsin¹ yeh³ hao³

富 貴 直 到 老

fu⁴ kuei⁴ chih² tao⁴ lao³

A good fortune and good heart will enjoy riches and honour even to old age.

103.—命 好 心 不 好

míng⁴ hao³ hsin¹ pu⁴ hao³

中 途 天 折 了

chung¹ t'u² yao¹ ché¹ liao³

A good fortune and bad heart will cut short happiness and cause death.

104.—心 命 都 不 好

hsin¹ míng⁴ tu¹ pu⁴ hao³

窮 苦 直 到 老

ch'üng² k'u³ chih² tao⁴ lao³

If heart and fortune are both bad, poverty and misfortune will last till old age.

105.—年 老 心 未 老

nien² lao³ hsin¹ wei⁴ lao³

人 窮 志 不 窮

jén² ch'üng² chih⁴ pu⁴ ch'üng²

Although old in years the heart may be young, a man who is poor may have lofty aspirations.

106.—自 古 皆 有 死

tzü⁴ ku³ chieh¹ yü³ ssü³

民 無 信 不 立

mín² wu² hsin⁴ pu⁴ li⁴

From olden times up to the present all have had to die, people cannot succeed without being sincere.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

107.—善 若 施 於 人

shan⁴ jo⁴ shih¹ yü² jén²

禍 不 侵 於 已

huo⁴ pu⁴ ch'in¹ yü² chi³

If you do good to a man, calamity will not come upon you.

108.—既 讀 孔 孟 之 書

chi⁴ tu² k'ung³ méng⁴ chih¹ shu¹

必 達 周 公 之 禮

pi⁴ ta² chou¹ kung¹ chih¹ li³

If you study the works of Confucius and Mencius, you must learn the ritual of Duke Chou.

周禮 are the rules for the guidance of court officials. The invention of the mariner's compass has been attributed to Duke Chou.

109.—君子敬而無失

chün¹ tzū³ ching⁴ erh² wu² shih¹

與人恭而有禮

yü³ jén² kung¹ erh² yu³ lí³

The superior man is respectful and not rude, towards men he is polite and courteous.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

110.—事君數斯辱矣

shih⁴ chün¹ so⁴ ssü¹ ju⁴ i³

朋友數斯疏矣

p'êng² yu³ so⁴ ssü¹ shu¹ i³

If you are importunate in serving your sovereign you will bring disgrace upon yourself, if you act in the same manner towards your friends they will shun you.

A quotation from Confucius' Lun Yü (論語).

111.—人無酬天之力

jén² wu² ch'ou² t'ien¹ chih¹ lí⁴

天有養人之心

t'ien¹ yu³ yang³ jén² chih¹ hsin¹

Man has no strength to requite the gifts of heaven, heaven yearns to feed man.

112.—一馬不韝雙鞍

i¹ ma³ pu⁴ pei⁴ shuang¹ an¹

忠臣不事二主

chung¹ ch'én² pu⁴ shih⁴ erh⁴ chu³

You cannot fit two packsaddles to one horse, a loyal minister cannot serve two masters ;

cf. — 'You cannot serve God and Mammon.'

113.—長想有力之奴

ch'ang² hsiang³ yu³ lí⁴ chih¹ nu²

不念無爲之子

pu⁴ nien⁴ wu² wei² chih¹ tzü³

Be ever mindful of faithful servants, don't trouble about good-for-nothing sons.

114.—人有旦夕禍福

jén² yu³ tan⁴ hsi¹ huo⁴ fu²

天有晝夜陰晴

t'ien¹ yu³ chou⁴ yeh⁴ yin¹ ch'ing²

Good and bad fortune befall man when least expected ; the sky is sometimes clouded over, at others bright with sunshine.

115.—君子當權積福

chün¹ tzü³ tang¹ ch'üan² chi¹ fu²

小人仗勢欺人

hsiao³ jén² chang⁴ shih⁴ ch'í¹ jén²

The superior man while in power stores up happiness, the mean man relies upon his influence and oppresses the people.

116.—人將禮樂爲先

jén² Chiang¹ lí³ yüeh⁴ wei² hsien¹

樹將枝葉爲圓

shu⁴ Chiang¹ chih¹ yeh⁴ wei² yüan²

Man considers rites and music of prime importance, the tree bears branches and leaves to give it the appearance of completeness (i.e. of finish).

117.—馬有垂韁之義

ma³ yu³ ch'ui² chiang¹ chih¹ i⁴

狗有濕草之恩

kou³ yu³ shih¹ ts'ao³ chih¹ ên¹

The horse has the goodness to lower the bridle, the dog has the goodwill to moisten the grass.

The interpretation of this enigmatic saying is as follows: A certain horse lowered its bridle over a well to enable its master who had fallen in to climb up into safety. A dog carried water from a stream close by for the purpose of moistening the grass to prevent fire from spreading to the place where his master lay unconscious.

118.—運去黃金失色

yün⁴ ch'ü⁴ huang² chin¹ shih¹ sê⁴

時來鐵也爭光

shih² lai² t'ieh³ yeh³ chêng¹ kuang¹

When fortune has gone, gold loses its colour; when good fortune appears, even iron shines brightly.

119.—怕人知道休作

p'a⁴ jên² chih¹ tao⁴ hsin¹ tso⁴

要人敬重勤學

yao⁴ jên² ching⁴ chung⁴ ch'in² hsiueh²

If you are afraid that people will know it, don't do it; if you want people to respect you, study diligently.

120.—泰山不却微塵

T'ai⁴ Shan¹ pu⁴ ch'üeh⁴ wei¹ ch'ên²

積小壘成高大

chi¹ hsiao³ lei³ ch'êng² kao¹ ta⁴

T'ai Shan does not refuse minute particles of sand, it accumulates small grains and increases in height.

T'ai Shan is one of the five most famous mountains in China.

121.—人道誰無煩惱

jên² tao⁴ shui² wu² fan² nao³

風來浪也白頭

fêng¹ lai² lang⁴ yeh³ pai² t'ou²

Who says that people have no sorrow, when the wind rises the waves are crested with foam.

122.—貧居鬧市無人問

p'in² chü¹ nao⁴ shih⁴ wu² jên² wên⁴

富在深山有遠親

fu⁴ tsai⁴ shên¹ shan¹ yu³ yüan³ ch'in¹

When you are poor, although you may live in the busy market, no one will ask about you; when you are rich although you live in the mountain recesses, you will have distant relations.

123.—交情當慎初相見

chiao¹ ch'ing² tang¹ shên⁴ ch'u¹ hsiang¹ chien⁴

到老終無怨恨心

tao⁴ lao³ chung¹ wu² yüan⁴ hên⁴ hsin¹

When you make friends, you must be careful the first time you meet, then even to old age you will not complain of the friendships made.

124.—白馬紅纓彩色新

po² ma³ hung² ying¹ ts'ai³ sê⁴ hsin¹

不是親者強來親

pu⁴ shih⁴ ch'in¹ ch'ê³ ch'iang³ lai² ch'in¹

A white horse with red trappings shines forth conspicuously; (when you are rich) those who are not relatives claim that they are near relations.

125.—一朝馬死黃金盡

i¹ chao¹ ma³ ssü³ huang² chin¹ chin¹

親者如同陌路人

ch'in¹ ché³ ju² t'ung² mo⁴ lu⁴ jén²

When the horse dies and the gold is exhausted, relatives are just like strangers.

126.—青草發時便蓋地

ch'ing¹ ts'ao³ fa¹ shih² pien⁴ kai⁴ ti⁴

運通何須覓故人

yün⁴ t'ung¹ ho² hsü¹ mi⁴ ku⁴ jén²

When the tender shoots of grass sprout forth, the ground is covered; when good fortune comes, there is no need to look for old friends.

127.—但能依理求生計

tan⁴ neng² i¹ li³ ch'iu² shêng¹ chi⁴

何必欺心作惡人

ho² pi⁴ ch'ü¹ hsin¹ tso⁴ é¹ jén²

If you can make a living by fair means, why should you be wicked against your conscience?

128.—纔為人交辨人心

ts'ai² wei² jén² chiao¹ pien⁴ jén² hsin¹

高山流水向古今

kao¹ shan¹ liu² shui³ hsiang⁴ ku³ chin¹

When you first make a friend you must prove him, lofty mountains and running water have existed from time immemorial.

Lofty mountains and running water are symbolic of close friendship such as that of Yü Po-ya (俞伯牙) and Chung Tzū-ch'ü (鍾子期), the David and Jonathan of Chinese lore.

129.—莫作虧心僥倖事

mo⁴ tso⁴ k'uei¹ hsin¹ chiao³ hsing⁴ shih⁴

自然災患不來侵

tzü⁴ jan² tsai¹ huan⁴ pu⁴ lai² ch'in¹

Do nothing discreditable in order to win success, as a natural consequence calamities will not steal upon you.

130.—人著人死天不肯

jén² cho² jén² ssü³ t'ien¹ pu⁴ k'én³

天著人死有何難

t'ien¹ cho² jén² ssü³ yu³ ho² nan²

If man desires the death of his fellow, Heaven opposes it; if Heaven wants a man to die, what difficulty is there?

131.—我見幾家貧了富

wo³ chien⁴ chi³ chia¹ p'in² liao³ fu⁴

幾家富了又還貧

chi³ chia¹ fu⁴ liao³ yu⁴ huan² p'in²

I have seen several families from being poor become rich, several families from being rich become poor.

132.—三寸氣在千般用

san¹ ts'un⁴ ch'ü¹ tsai¹ ch'ien¹ pan¹ yung⁴

一旦無常萬事休

i¹ tan⁴ wu² ch'ang² wan⁴ shih⁴ hsiu¹

Three inches of breath can be used in a thousand ways, once dead 10,000 things are finished.

125

When
just like str

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133.—人 見 利 而 不 見 害

jén² chien⁴ lí⁴ ér²h² pu⁴ chien⁴ hai⁴

魚 見 食 而 不 見 鉤

yü² chien⁴ shih² ér²h² pu⁴ chien⁴ kou¹

Man has seen the gain but not the harm, the fish has seen the bait but not the hook.

134.—是 非 只 爲 多 開 口

shih⁴ fei¹ chih³ wei² to¹ k'ai¹ k'ou³

煩 惱 皆 因 強 出 頭

fan² nao³ chieh¹ yin¹ ch'iang³ ch'u¹ t'ou²

You get into trouble because you speak too much, you get vexed because you strive to take the lead.

135.—平 生 正 直 無 私 曲

p'ing² shêng¹ chêng⁴ chih² wu² ssü¹ ch'ü¹

問 甚 天 公 饒 不 饒

wén⁴ shén⁴ t'ien¹ kung¹ jao² pu⁴ jao²

During your whole life you have been upright and have not walked in crooked paths, why should you ask Heaven to pardon or condemn you?

136.—猛 虎 不 在 當 道 臥

mêng³ hu³ pu⁴ tsai⁴ tang¹ tao⁴ wo⁴

困 龍 也 有 上 天 時

k'un⁴ lung² yeh³ yu³ shang⁴ t'ien¹ shih²

A savage tiger does not lie in wait on the highroad, there is still time for the dragon in distress to go to heaven.

137.—臨 崖 勒 馬 收 韁 晚

lin² ai² lé⁴ ma³ shou¹ chiang¹ wan³

船 到 江 心 補 漏 遲

ch'uan² tao⁴ chiang¹ hsin¹ pu³ lou⁴ ch'ih²

It is too late to draw in the reins when the horse reaches the cliff, when the boat is in midstream it is not the time to stop her from leaking.

138.—家 業 有 時 爲 來 往

chia¹ yeh⁴ yu³ shih² wei² lai² wang³

還 錢 長 記 借 錢 時

huan² ch'ien² ch'ang² chi⁴ chieh⁴ ch'ien² shih²

When you are prosperous, mix freely with your fellow-men; when you pay back your debts, always think of the time when you borrowed;

i.e.—a day may come when you need to borrow money and if you have no friends it will be difficult.

139.—金 風 未 動 蟬 先 覺

chin¹ fêng¹ wei¹ tung⁴ ch'an² hsien¹ chüeh²

暗 算 無 常 死 不 知

an⁴ suan⁴ wu² ch'ang² ssü³ pu⁴ chih¹

The cricket is aware of the autumn wind ere it begins to blow, the man who is slain by secret plot is ignorant of his murderer.

140.—青 山 只 會 明 今 古

ch'ing¹ shan¹ chih³ hui⁴ ming² chin¹ ku³

綠 水 何 曾 洗 是 非

lū⁴ shui³ ho² ts'êng² hsi³ shih⁴ fei¹

The green mountain ever stands as a monument of the present and past, clear water never washes away the right and wrong.

141. 常 將 有 日 思 無 日

ch'ang² Chiang¹ yu³ jih⁴ ssü¹ wu² jih⁴

莫 待 無 時 思 有 時

mo⁴ tai⁴ wu² shih² ssü¹ yu³ shih²

In the midst of prosperity always think of adversity, don't wait until you are poor.

142. 善 惡 到 頭 終 有 報

shan⁴ ê⁴ tao⁴ t'ou² chung¹ yu³ pao⁴

只 爭 來 早 與 來 遲

chih³ chêng¹ lai² tsao³ yü³ lai² ch'ih²

There will be a reward at last for good and bad deeds, the only difference lies in its coming early or late.

143. 蒿 蓬 隱 着 靈 芝 草

hao¹ p'êng² yin³ cho¹ ling² chih¹ ts'ao³

淤 泥 陷 着 紫 金 盆

yü¹ nî² hsien⁴ cho¹ tzü³ chin¹ p'ên²

Among the wormwood grass the plant of long life is hidden, a rich gold basin is found imbedded in the mire.

144. 勸 君 莫 作 虧 心 事

ch'üan⁴ chün¹ mo⁴ tso⁴ k'uei¹ hsin¹ shih⁴

古 往 今 來 放 過 誰

ku² wang³ chin¹ lai² fang³ kuo⁴ shui²

I exhort you to do no discreditable acts, from time immemorial no one has been pardoned.

145. 山 寺 日 高 僧 未 起

shan¹ ssü⁴ jih⁴ kao¹ sêng¹ wei⁴ ch'ü³

算 來 名 利 不 如 閒

suan⁴ lai² ming² li⁴ pu⁴ ju² hsien²

The priest of the temple does not rise until the sun is high in the heavens, or otherwise put, he who aspires to rank and fame has not as much enjoyment as the one who does nothing.

146. 欺 心 莫 賭 洪 誓 水

ch'ü¹ hsin¹ mo⁴ tu³ hung² shih⁴ shui³

人 與 世 情 朝 朝 隨

jên² yü³ shih⁴ ch'ing² chao¹ chao¹ sui²

Do not perjure yourself by taking false oaths, be sure your sins will find you out.

147. 人 生 稀 有 七 十 餘

jên² shêng¹ hsi¹ yu³ ch'ü¹ shih² yü²

多 少 風 光 不 同 居

to¹ shao³ fêng¹ kuang¹ pu⁴ t'ung² chü¹

There are only a few who live beyond 70, customs and times are ever changing.

148. 長 江 一 去 無 回 浪

ch'ang² Chiang¹ i¹ ch'ü⁴ wu² hui² lang⁴

人 老 何 曾 再 少 年

jên² lao² ho² ts'êng² tsai⁴ shao⁴ nien²

The Great River always flows onward, never backward, a man who is old cannot become young again.

149.—大道勸人三件事

ta⁴ tao⁴ ch'üan⁴ jen² san¹ chien⁴ shih⁴

戒酒除花莫賭錢

chiek⁴ chiu³ ch'u² hua¹ mo⁴ tu³ ch'ien²

The great principle exhorts man in three different ways:—
leave off drinking, give up licentious living and don't gamble.

150.—言多語失皆因酒

yen² to¹ yü³ shih¹ chieh¹ yin¹ chiu³

義斷親疏只爲錢

i⁴ tuan⁴ ch'in¹ shu¹ chih³ wei⁴ ch'ien²

If you drink wine, you will talk too much and offend; relations
are alienated and friends estranged through money transactions.

151.—有事但近君子說

yu³ shih⁴ tan⁴ chin⁴ chün¹ tzü³ shuo¹

是非休聽小人言

shih⁴ fei¹ hsiu¹ t'ing¹ hsiao³ jên² yen²

If you have anything to ask, deliberate with the superior man,
no matter whether right or wrong do not listen to the mean man.

152.—妻賢何愁家不富

ch'i¹ hsien² ho² ch'ou² chia¹ pu⁴ fu⁴

子孝何須父向前

tzü³ hsiao⁴ ho² hsu¹ fu⁴ hsiang⁴ ch'ien²

If the wife is virtuous, you need not trouble, your family will
be rich; if your sons are filial, there is no need for the father to
come to the front.

153.—心好家門生貴子

hsin¹ hao³ chia¹ mén² shéng¹ kwei⁴ tzü³

命好何須靠祖田

ming⁴ hao³ ho² hsi¹ k'ao⁴ tsu³ t'ien²

If your heart is good, a noble son will be born to the family;
if your destiny is good, there is no need to depend on your
ancestral fields.

154.—侵人田土騙人錢

ch'in¹ jên² t'ien² t'u³ p'ien⁴ jên² ch'ien²

榮華富貴不多年

jung² hua² fu⁴ kwei⁴ pu⁴ to¹ nien²

If you appropriate the land of another, or swindle a man out
of money, you cannot enjoy the fruits (of such actions) in happiness
and prosperity for very long.

155.—莫道眼前無可報

mo⁴ tao⁴ yen³ ch'ien² wu² k'o³ pao⁴

分明折在子孫邊

fén¹ ming² ché² tsai⁴ tzü³ sun¹ pien¹

Don't say there is no retribution at present, (if not on you) it
will inevitably fall upon your sons and grandsons.

156.—酒逢知己千杯少

chiu³ fêng² chih¹ chi³ ch'ien¹ pei¹ shao³

話不投機半句多

hua⁴ pu⁴ t'ou² chi¹ pan⁴ chü⁴ to¹

Even if you drink a thousand cups of wine in friendship, it is
not too much; when you speak to a man on a subject upon which
your views do not coincide, then even half a sentence is too much.

157. 衣服破時賓客少

i¹ fū² p'ō⁴ shih² pin¹ k'ō⁴ shao³

識人多處是非多

shih⁴ jên² to¹ ch'u⁴ shih⁴ fei¹ to¹

When your clothes are torn, you will have fewer friends; if you know many people, you will have much trouble.

158. 草怕嚴霜霜怕日

ts'ao³ p'a⁴ yen² shuang¹ shuang¹ p'a⁴ jih⁴

惡人自有惡人磨

é⁴ jên² tzū⁴ yu³ é⁴ jên² mo²

The grass dreads the severe frost, but the frost dreads the sun, wicked people fear those who are more wicked than themselves.

159. 月過十五光明少

yüeh⁴ kuo⁴ shih² wu³ kuang¹ ming² shao³

人到中年萬事和

jên² tao⁴ chung¹ nien² wan⁴ shih⁴ ho²

When the moon passes the fifteenth day, its brightness begins to wane; when people get to middle age, everything will be harmonious.

160. 良言一句三冬暖

liang² yen² i¹ chü⁴ san¹ tung¹ nuan³

惡語傷人六月寒

é⁴ yü³ shang¹ jên² liu⁴ yüeh⁴ han²

A sentence of kindly words even in mid-winter is cheery, bad words even in mid-summer are harsh and injurious to people.

三冬 mid-winter.

六月 mid-summer.

161. 雨裏深山雪裏烟

yü³ li³ shén¹ shan¹ hsüeh³ li³ yen¹

看時容易做時難

k'an⁴ shih² jung² i⁴ tso⁴ shih² nan²

It is easy to observe the high mountains in the rain and the smoke in the snow storm, but difficult to reproduce them.

162. 無名草木年年發

wu² ming² ts'ao³ mu⁴ nien² nien² fa¹

不信男兒一世窮

pu⁴ hsin⁴ nan² ér² i¹ shih⁴ ch'ung²

Unnamed grass comes forth every year, don't believe that a man will be poor for ever.

163. 若不與人行方便

jo⁴ pu⁴ yü³ jen² hsing² fang¹ pien⁴

念盡彌陀總是空

nien⁴ chin⁴ mi² t'ō² tsung³ shih⁴ k'ung¹

If you don't do something for other people, all your prayers to Buddha are in vain.

164. 少年休笑白頭翁

shao⁴ nien² hsiu¹ hsiao⁴ po² t'ou² weng¹

花開能有幾時紅

hua¹ k'ai¹ neng² yü³ chi³ shih² hung²

Young men don't laugh at grey hairs, how long does the flower bloom?

165.—越 奸 越 狡 越 貧 窮

yüeh⁴ chien¹ yüeh⁴ chiao³ yüeh⁴ p'ün² ch'üung²

奸 狡 原 來 天 不 容

chien¹ chiao³ yüan² lai² t'ien¹ pu⁴ jung²

The more cunning and crafty you are the poorer you will be, cunning and craftiness will never be sanctioned by heaven.

166.—富 貴 若 從 奸 狡 得

fu⁴ kuei⁴ jo⁴ ts'ung² chien¹ chiao³ tē²

世 間 呆 漢 吸 西 風

shih⁴ chien¹ tai¹ han⁴ hsi¹ hsi¹ fēng¹

If honour and riches are obtained through cunning and craftiness, the foolish in the world will have to live on air (lit. breathe the western wind).

喝 西 北 風 drink the north-west wind, i.e.—get nothing.

167.—忠 臣 不 事 二 君 主

chung¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ shih⁴ êrh⁴ chün¹ chu³

烈 女 不 嫁 二 夫 郎

lieh⁴ nü⁴ pu⁴ chia⁴ êrh⁴ fu¹ lang²

A patriotic minister does not serve two sovereigns, a chaste girl does not marry two husbands.

168.—小 人 狡 猾 心 腸 歹

hsiao³ jên² chiao³ hua² hsin¹ ch'ang² tai³

君 子 公 平 托 上 蒼

chün¹ tzu³ kung¹ p'ing² t'o¹ shang⁴ ts'ang¹

A mean man is cunning, his heart is wicked; a superior man is honest and trusts in heaven above.

169.—一 字 千 金 價 不 多

i¹ tzu⁴ ch'ien¹ chin¹ chia⁴ pu⁴ to¹

會 文 會 算 有 誰 過

hui⁴ wên² hui⁴ suan⁴ yu³ shui² kuo⁴

One character is worth 1,000 taels, even that is not much, those who are versed in literature and mathematics have never passed unnoticed.

170.—小 身 會 文 國 家 用

hsiao³ shên¹ hui⁴ wên² kuo² chia¹ yung⁴

大 漢 空 長 作 甚 麼

ta⁴ han⁴ k'ung¹ ch'ang² tso⁴ shên² mo²

A small man who is well educated can be employed by the Government, what is the use of a tall man who knows nothing?

Chinese Proverb.

If you have a loaf, sell half
and buy a lily.

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